

REMARKS

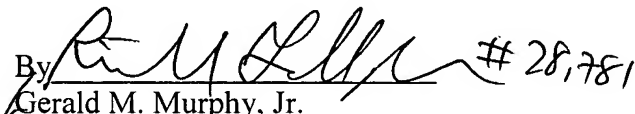
The present Preliminary Amendment clarifies the disclosure of certain prior art that is discussed in the specification. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments. Action on the merits of the claims herein is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By  # 28,781
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